



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Statement of the Workmen's Earnings at an Iron Work in North Wales, in each Year, from 1844 to 1849.

	1844.	1845.	1846.	1847.	1848.	1849.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Colliers, per stent, or under 8 hours' work	1 6	2 0	2 6	2 6	2 0	1 9½
Miners' earnings are from 1½d. to 2d. per stent below the Colliers.						
Labourers.....per week	8 6	9 6	12 0	12 0	11 0	10 0
Furnace Fillers....."	14 6	15 6	19 0	18 6	18 6	17 6
Cinder Fillers....."	14 6	15 6	19 0	18 6	18 6	17 6
Furnace Keepers....."	19 6	23 0	28 0	27 0	23 0	22 0
Refiners....."	16 0	25 6	32 0	30 0	24 0	21 0
Puddlers....."	22 0	32 0	32 0	32 0	26 0	24 0
Heaters or Ballers....."	17 0	22 0	27 0	29 0	22 6	21 0
Rollers....."	30 0	47 0	76 0	77 0	46 0	44 6
Rail Straighteners....."	30 0	24 0	30 0	30 0	24 0	16 0

The following are the Average Weekly Earnings of 230 Hands employed in one Mill in Cotton Spinning, for each Year, from 1846 to 1849.

1846.	The earnings averaged 10s. 0d. per head of all ages and both sexes, of eight years of age and upwards, working 12 hours a day.
1847.	" " 8 4½
1848.	" " 8 2
1849.	" " 9 4

During these years, trade was bad, and the working of the mill averaged about 4 days a week.

Only 11 hours a day.

Proposal for preserving and making a general index of the Parish Registers anterior to 1837. By REV. E. WYATT-EDGEELL.

[Read before the Statistical Society of London, 19th November, 1849.]

THE Parish Registers subsequent to 1837 possess little interest, inasmuch as they have been superseded by the Civil Registry. But the books prior to that date, which may now be looked upon as a completed series, are the only existing annals of some forty or fifty millions of human beings who have passed from the world; and it is therefore a matter not merely of interest, but of duty, to rescue such documents from the decay into which they are rapidly falling. The purpose of the present paper is to inquire how this may be best accomplished; and at the same time to consider whether the information contained in the Parish Registers, which has hitherto been used only for legal purposes, may not be so concentrated as to be rendered available for the higher purposes of literature and science.

Unless some measures are taken for preserving them, the older portions of our Parish Register books will soon become extinct. It is true that by the law of 1812, it was made imperative on every parish to provide an iron chest for the security of its books; and, as no expense was spared in carrying out this part of the Act, they are now

comparatively safe from fire or theft; but in every other respect their condition is most unsatisfactory. They are generally kept in private houses—the old and the new books thrown into the same chest with vestry-books, subscription lists and all the miscellaneous papers of the parish. They are consequently liable to be taken in and out every day, and it is impossible to doubt but that in the course of each year that passes many books must be torn or damaged, if not altogether lost. Our first inquiry therefore ought to be, how those which remain (and which are supposed to contain about one hundred million entries,) may be best preserved.

A writer in a late periodical proposed that all the existing books should be transcribed—that the transcripts should be, as nearly as possible, fac-similes of the originals—that the work should be performed under the superintendence of the clergyman, and that the expense should be paid by subscription amongst the wealthier inhabitants of the parish.

Perhaps all that can be said of this proposal is, that it is better than none: and in default of a more comprehensive plan emanating from the Legislature, we may hope that something of the kind will be adopted by the parochial clergy. But it is evident at the first glance, that this plan only applies to parishes which are peculiarly situated; where the amount of entries is small, and where there are a sufficient number of persons who take an interest in the subject: moreover, whilst it provides for the *preservation* of the Registers, it makes no provision for that which is quite as important, namely, the *concentration of the information which they contain*.

It is possible I conceive to combine both objects. And with this view I submit to your consideration the following scheme,—not a very practicable one it must be confessed; but still, could it be accomplished, a most effectual one.

I propose that all existing Registers from 1538, which is the date of their commencement, down to the year 1837, should be collected together in one or more convenient place, and copied. That the originals should then be deposited in a safe building—the library at Lambeth, or the new Record Office, or any other building which might be selected. That the copies (which should be rough copies, *i. e.*, copies of the names and dates only, not fac-similes or verbal transcripts of the original entries) should be cut into slips, and that these should be sorted and arranged in alphabetical order, so as to form three indexes, one for the baptisms, another for the marriages, and a third for the burials of the whole kingdom during the three centuries. Lastly, I propose that the indexes so formed should be printed, and a copy be given to each parish in return for the original manuscripts which were contributed by it.

The advantages of this scheme (admitting, for the sake of argument, its practicability,) are so obvious that I need but very briefly mention them.

1. The original manuscripts, which may amount perhaps to one hundred thousand, and which are now distributed amongst thirteen thousand dwellings, will by this scheme be transferred to a proper receptacle, where they will be safe from accidents and, as far as possible, from decay.

2. The archæologist, to whom the parish Registers as being almost the only documents now unexplored are exceedingly interesting, will be able to inspect them all concentrated in one spot, instead of searching for them throughout the kingdom.

3. Those who have occasion to trace a pedigree, whether for legal or historical purposes, will have the advantage of consulting *one index* at home instead of travelling in search of an indefinite number of unindexed manuscripts. Indeed, the difference in their case will amount to this, that they will *then be enabled to find* a pedigree, whereas all they can now do is to verify one *already* found. Moreover, the demand for certified copies of old entries which will thus be created will be, so far as it goes, advantageous to the Clergy.

4. The individual parishes will be benefited by this plan, because each will receive in return for a few manuscripts in which the parishioners took little or no interest, a *complete work* by reference to which every person may discover not only his birth and parentage, but also the record of his ancestors for twelve or fifteen generations back. This has hitherto been the privilege only of the very rich; but by the plan I propose it will be placed within the reach of all, even of the humblest peasant or mechanic whom curiosity or affection prompts to make the search.

I proceed now to consider the expense of arranging and printing such a general index of the registers as I have described. But before entering upon this calculation it is necessary to observe that the estimate, rough as it is, will exceed the truth: first, because there will be a great reduction in the cost of the work if the parchment transcripts which are now lying at the Chapter-houses of the several dioceses can be turned to account, (which will be the case when they are written only on one side); and secondly, because during the progress of so long and mechanical an operation as that of indexing one hundred million of names, new inventions for the division and abridgment of labour can hardly fail to be discovered, and the magnitude of the work in consequence diminished.

Without however reckoning upon either of these auxiliaries, I will proceed to calculate the expense by a comparison with what is now going on at the Registrar General's Office at Somerset House. At that office about a million and a quarter of names are every year arranged in alphabetical order and written out in the form of indexes. The work is performed by six clerks, who each receive 28*s.* per week, and by others who receive 17*s.* 6*d.* for every thousand entries transcribed and indexed; thus making a sum of 1,530*l.* for labour alone. At the same rate the labour of arranging one hundred million names will be 122,400*l.* The printing may be performed either on the principle of giving to each entry a separate line (as is done in court-guides and the subscription lists of charities,) or by printing the names and dates continuously (as is done in the index of the *Gentleman's Magazine*). According to the former method the cost of printing will be a halfpenny for each name, or nearly 210,000*l.* for the whole work. According to the latter method the whole will cost about 70,000*l.* Enormous sums doubtless, and such as will appear quite visionary when mentioned in connexion with parish Registers. But when it is

considered that the Civil Registry costs the nation *annually* more than the last-mentioned sum, and that the parishes* expend annually more than the interest of it in making parchment returns which are *utterly useless*, some indulgence may perhaps be accorded to a scheme which proposes, once for all, to rescue from oblivion the annals of three centuries.

Statistical Account of the Police of the Metropolis. By JOSEPH FLETCHER, Esq., *Barrister-at-Law, Honorary Secretary.*

[Read before the Statistical Society of London, 18th March, 1850.]

Ancient Police of the City, a Model for the rest of the Metropolis and for the whole Country.

THE original executive police of the city of London, deriving its origin from the earliest periods of our history, is yet in existence. This consists of the alderman, deputy (alderman), common councilmen, ward clerk, ward beadle, inquestmen, and constables† of the several wards, appointed by the freemen householders therein resident, who were formerly themselves, in rotation, the night watchmen. While all the duties of police continued to be performed by the inhabitants themselves, this common-law organization of the wards had for its main purpose that internal government of each for which it was originally designed. The wardmote or folkmote of the ward still appoints annually a leet jury of inquestmen for the whole year, who are a sort of council of police, to present all public nuisances and injuries to the city magistrates. Formerly, the constable of each precinct, similarly appointed, had to keep the alderman of the ward advertised of the presence of all new comers, so that his list of inhabitants and sojourners might always be perfect; and it was the duty of the alderman, with the assistance of that officer, to take order that none above twelve years of age should there abide without being put under frank pledge, and sworn to be faithful and loyal to the king's majesty, in such sort as by the law and custom of the City he ought to be; he was also to see that if any alien born, though naturalized, were called upon the watch, he should not serve, but be compelled to find an Englishman to be his substitute. The alderman was likewise to make provision in his ward of a pair of stocks and a whipping-post, and of fire-buckets, ladders, &c.; to see that the streets were kept clean; that hucksters of ale and beer kept orderly houses, and closed them at ten o'clock at night in summer, and nine in winter; to order that lanterns with lights should be hung out by night, as in old manner accustomed, and that no man should go by night without light, or with vizard; to search out and punish all vagrants; and to return lists of

* The iron chests before-mentioned could not, in 1812, have cost less than 50,000*l.*, a sum which would have gone some way towards carrying out this scheme.

† By the City Police Act the latter office is placed in abeyance, and virtually it is extinguished, except in so far as it may be regarded as continued in the private subscription watchmen recently appointed by the inhabitants of the several wards.